

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 5 and 7 through 13 remain pending in the present application. The subject matter of claim 6 has been inserted into claim 1, the term "complex" finding basis at page 8, lines 5-8 of the specification. No new matter is submitted.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6 through 8, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for various reasons. Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof, in view of the amendment submitted herewith.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Lilienfeld

Claims 1 through 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lilienfeld, U.S. Patent No. 2,229,856. Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Lilienfeld proposes the manufacture of cellulose derivatives and structures made therefrom (title). Lilienfeld processes xanthates cellulose to form viscose, and then spins the viscose into a coagulating bath (page 5, col. 1, lines 31-47). Lilienfeld proposes that during an intermediate stage of the process, a small amount of a catalyzer, such as a metal salt, which can be a silver salt, can be added to the reaction mixture (page 12, col. 1, lines 26-34).

Lilienfeld fails to disclose or suggest a wound dressing containing a silver salt complex with an anionic polymer, as claimed herein. In fact, Lilienfeld's

disclosure that the silver salt is added as a catalyst would indicate to the skilled artisan that the silver salt does not remain in the final cellulose derivative product at all. Likewise, nothing in Lilienfeld would indicate that the cellulose derivative product is an anionic polymer, as claimed herein.

In view thereof, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 through 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lilienfeld, U.S. Patent No. 2,229,856, be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lilienfeld
in view of Feldstein et al.

Claims 7 through 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Lilienfeld, U.S. Patent No. 2,229,856, in view of Feldstein et al., U.S. Publication No. 2005/0113510. Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

As indicated above, Lilienfeld proposes the manufacture of cellulose derivatives and structures made therefrom (title). Lilienfeld processes xanthates cellulose to form viscose, and then spins the viscose into a coagulating bath (page 5, col. 1, lines 31-47). Lilienfeld proposes that during an intermediate stage of the process, a small amount of a catalyser, such as a metal salt, which can be a silver salt, can be added to the reaction mixture (page 12, col. 1, lines 26-34).

Moreover, Lilienfeld fails to disclose or suggest a wound dressing containing a silver salt complex with an anionic polymer, as claimed herein. In fact, Lilienfeld's disclosure that the silver salt is added as a catalyst would indicate to the skilled artisan that the silver salt does not remain in the final

cellulose derivative product at all. Likewise, nothing in Lilienfeld would indicate that the cellulose derivative product is an anionic polymer, as claimed herein.

Initially, it is unclear that Feldstein et al. is available as prior art against the present claims. Feldstein et al. was filed after the priority date of the present application, and is a continuation-in-part of serial no. 10/359,548. The Examiner cites to Example 11 (paragraph [0229]), which may have been additional disclosure in the CIP. Applicants request that the Examiner review the parent application 10/359,548 to determine whether the subject matter of Example 11 was present in the parent.

Feldstein et al. discloses a method of preparing polymeric adhesive compositions, by selecting a film forming polymer and a ladder-like non-covalent crosslinker which forms a ladder-like interpolymer complex with the film forming polymer, and a carcass-like non-covalent crosslinker that is capable of forming a carcass-like complex with at least one of the film forming polymer or the ladder-like non-covalent crosslinker (abstract). In Example 11, Feldstein et al. disclose wound dressings made from the cross-linked polymers thereof, which contain 1.0 wt% of silver sulfate [0229]-[0230].

Feldstein et al. fail to disclose or suggest wound dressings comprising a silver salt which is a complex of silver and an anionic polymer, as claimed herein, and thus cannot cure the deficiencies of Lilienfeld.

In view thereof, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 7 through 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Lilienfeld, U.S. Patent No. 2,229,856, in view of Feldstein et al., U.S. Publication No. 2005/0113510, be withdrawn.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-2478 (15013).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael J. Mlotkowski
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,020
(703) 584-3270

POST OFFICE ADDRESS to which
correspondence is to be sent:

Roberts, Mlotkowski Safran & Cole
P.O. Box 10064
McLean, VA 22102